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McGILL, PETERSON, CANTRELL, CROW & ANDERSON WIN AT IRWINDALE

Race Date: September 16, 2006

by Tim Kennedy

Irwindale, CA., Sept. 16 - Jim McGill won his second NASCAR Lucas Oil Super Late Model 50-lap feature this year and the third triumph of his SLM career Saturday on Pepsi Night at the banked half-mile Irwindale Speedway. The 45-year old driver from Temecula started his Pechanga Resort & Casino-sponsored 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo in fourth position and earned $1,250 for his 0.419 of a second victory over fellow San Diego area resident David Beat. McGill, whose wife works as his race spotter via radio, drove his Jackson chassis with a Watkins-built engine. He solidified his hold on third place in point standings.

Second starter Beat, 47, gave the over 40-population hope when he led the first 23 laps in his 2005 Dodge Intrepid, built by Port City Cars, with an Auto Pro of Santa Barbara Chevy engine built by ex-driver James Weston. McGill passed Beat on the inside at turn four during lap 24 and stayed in front through lap 43. A caution flag flew on lap 44 for a two-car spinout in turn one by Kevin Thompson and Robby Sawyer as they fought for tenth place. Beat shot past McGill on the inside entering the third turn and forced McGill's car up the track in turn four when racing resumed on lap 44. McGill reclaimed the lead on lap 45 and led the final six laps, edging Beat by 0.419 of a second.

McGill and Beat told the media their cars were too tight earlier and they "tightened them up" for the feature. "My car was better coming off the turns," said outside runner McGill. Inside runner Beat added, "My car was better getting into the turns and he was better off turns. I was a little too free and his car stuck pretty good." Stephen Peace finished third, 0.885 back. Point leader Van Knill started eighth and finished fourth, with Doug McComb fifth. Fifteen of the 20 starters finished and all ran the full 50-lap distance. Knill entered the race with a 40-point advantage and lost four points of his lead to runner-up Beat, who now trails Knill 629-593.Twin-main events and a maximum of 100-points are available at the final race on September 30.

Ron Peterson became the third driver to clinch one of the ten 2006 IS series championships. He also won the 2004 Super Truck title at IS. The King Taco Super Truck point leader pushed his lead to 113-points with only round 14 of 14 remaining September 30. It was Peterson's tenth main event triumph of 2006 and the 31st of his career at Irwindale, moving him up to third place on the list of drivers with the most main event victories at the eight year old speedway. Two 2006 track champions were named last month and last week. Jeff Williams, in a Ford F-150, became a first-time IS champion on August 5 in West Coast Pro Truck race seven of seven. He edged the runner-up by 18-points. John Watkinson, the 2002 Grand American Modified track champion, earned his second GAM title September 9 after race three of three. He won all three features this year and won by 22-points.

As the quickest qualifier, Peterson spun two as the inverted start number for a 27-truck, 40-lap race on the half-mile. Pole starter Bill Sedgwick led the first lap. Peterson led lap 2-15, lost the lead for one lap (16th) to series rookie Matthew Hicks and then reclaimed the point a lap later. He paced the final 33 laps in a tight battle with runner-up Rich Geisler and Hicks. Geisler passed Hicks on lap 20 and the top trio prevailed despite caution flags on laps 24 and 31for solo spins. Peterson's 2003 Dodge Dakota beat Geisler by 0.316 and Hicks by 0.563. Dave Blankenship and Sedgwick completed the top five with 22 of 27